











# Water Quality Program Plan

Draft Programmatic ElS/EIR Technical Appendix June 1999

# Water Quality Program Plan

**June 1999** 



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#### WHAT'S NEW IN THIS DRAFT

Since publication of the March 1998 CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program) Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, additional effort has been devoted to further development of the Water Quality Program. Attention has been focused mainly on these areas:

- Further defining water quality problems for CALFED action.
- Developing more detailed plans for water quality actions.
- Prioritizing water quality actions for early implementation.
- Recommending monitoring, assessment, and research activities needed to enable detailed project planning, develop final priorities for implementation, and evaluate the success of implementing water quality actions.

This work has been accomplished through six working teams drawn from the Water Quality Technical Group, the body of agency and stakeholder representatives who provide water quality expertise and assistance in developing the Water Quality Program.



#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

CALFED staff appreciate the participation and contribution of all the stakeholders involved with the Water Quality Program. We extend a special thanks to the Water Quality Technical Group and all of the work teams members who labored long and hard to assemble the individual program action sections of this document. Appendix A contains a complete list of members of the Water Quality Technical Group.

Members of the individual work groups are:

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We also extend thanks to the persons who participated in peer review of the Water Quality Program Plan.

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#### GLOSSARY

Following are working definitions of terms found throughout the Water Quality Program Plan (WQPP). This section is intended to facilitate the reader's understanding of the CALFED Water Quality Program and applies only to the WQPP. It is not intended as a general scientific glossary of terms.

Adaptive Management - A process of modifying methods of meeting objectives through interactive decision making, and adapting future management actions according to what is learned from prior projects and studies.

Anthropogenic - Caused by human intervention or originating from human activities.

Bay Region - The Bay Region includes Suisun Bay and Marsh, San Pablo Bay, and the San Francisco Bay watershed. In addition, a zone of approximately 25 miles offshore from Point Conception to the Oregon border has been included to cover potential ocean harvest management of anadromous fish along the California coast. Certainly anadromous fish roam beyond the artificial boundary, but the purpose of the boundary is to identify the area where most anadromous fish from the Bay-Delta system occur and include the area where harvest management actions would be employed.

**Beneficial Use** - Refers to water uses that are included in the Water Quality Program. Specifically, these water uses are urban, agricultural, industrial, environmental, and recreational beneficial uses.

Ceriodaphnia - A fresh water cladoceran, commonly known as a water flea, which is used as a test species in toxicity bioassays.

Comprehensive Monitoring, Assessment, and Research Program (CMARP) - A program currently under development by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to identify the monitoring, assessment, and research needed for CALFED-related projects, actions, and activities. CMARP is a critical component of the CALFED adaptive management strategy.

**Delta Region** - The Delta Region is defined as the statutory Delta (described in Section 12220 of the California Water Code) and is comprised roughly of lowlands (lands approximately at or below the 5-foot contour) and uplands (lands above the 5-foot contour that are served water by lowland Delta channels). The Delta Region has been carved out of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds because of the Program's focus on this region.

**Disinfection By-Products** - Chemical compounds that are created during the disinfection of drinking water. Some compounds may be toxic, carcinogenic, or teratogenic.



**Indicators of Success** - Indicators are a means of assessing progress toward endpoints or targets that are representative of when beneficial uses are no longer impaired.

**Parameter Assessment Team (PAT)** - A technical working sub-group of the Water Quality Technical Group representing a variety of interests. See Appendix A and the Acknowledgments for a listing of PAT members.

**Parameters of Concern -** Substances identified by the Water Quality Program as causing, or potentially causing, water quality problems to beneficial water uses based on the input of technical experts and stakeholders. Substances may be added to or deleted from the Water Quality Program parameters of concern based on new knowledge. Once a substance becomes a parameter of concern, water quality targets are established for the parameter and actions are developed to address the water quality problems associated with the parameter.

**Performance Measures** - A means to gauge the progress of an action. Progress may be judged based on a variety of factors, such as reduced concentrations of a parameter. Performance measures answer the question, "Is water quality improving?".

Sacramento River Region - The Sacramento River Region is essentially bounded by the ridge tops of the Sacramento River watershed or hydrologic region. The Goose Lake watershed, in the northeast corner of California, has been left out of the study area because it rarely contributes to the flow of the Pit and Sacramento Rivers—apparently Goose Lake last spilled very briefly sometime in the 1950s and only a few times between 1869 and the present—and no actions are proposed in the watershed. Although the Trinity River is connected by a pipeline to the Sacramento River system, the Trinity River does not flow naturally into the Sacramento River watershed, and no CALFED water quality actions are proposed for the Trinity River or its watershed.

San Joaquin River Region - The San Joaquin River Region includes both the San Joaquin and Tulare Lake hydrologic basins. The Tulare Lake basin only intermittently spills over into the San Joaquin River basin during wet years or a series of wet years. However, potentially significant water quality management issues are linked to the San Joaquin River watershed and ultimately, the Bay-Delta system.

Other SWP and CVP Service Areas - The Other SWP and CVP Service Areas include small portions of Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Santa Clara Counties outside the Bay watershed, served by the CVP (San Felipe Division). The SWP service areas include most of the urbanized areas of southern California, as well as Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. The CVP and SWP service areas within the Central Valley are covered by Central Valley watersheds. In addition, Imperial Irrigation District is included in this region because the significant water use efficiency and transfer potential in the district could help to reduce the water supply and demand mismatch in southern California urban areas.



Targets or Water Quality Objectives - End points or compliance levels that when met indicate that beneficial uses are protected. These endpoints may be based on achievement of a variety of measurable factors, including numerical and narrative objectives for water, sediment, and tissue and lack of toxicity as indicated by toxicity testing. Indicators of success answer the question, "Have water quality goals been achieved?"

**Toxicity of Unknown Origin -** Refers to toxicity to native or laboratory test organisms due to unknown sources.

Water Quality Action - A programmatic action developed by the CALFED Water Quality Program to address impairments to agriculture, environment, drinking water, industrial, and recreational beneficial uses.

Water Quality Target - A numeric or narrative water, sediment, or tissue value associated with a parameter of concern. Water quality targets are based on existing water quality, sediment, and tissue objectives recognized by the scientific community and regulatory authorities. In general, targets have been established to represent a threshold below which beneficial uses of water are not impaired. The target represents the goal toward which the Water Quality Program will strive; realizing targets may not be possible to reach in all cases.

Water Quality Technical Group (WQTG) - A group of over 200 technical experts, agency representatives, and stakeholders representing the environment, agriculture, drinking water, industry, and recreation who participate in the development of the Water Quality Program. See Appendix A for a listing of WQTG members.

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

BCPOS biorational cling peach orchard systems

BIOS biologically integrated orchard systems

BIPS biologically integrated prune systems

BLM U.S. Bureau of Land Management

BMPs best management practices

BOD biochemical oxygen demand

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

CCC California Coastal Commission

CCWD Contra Costa Water District

CERCLA Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

(federal Superfund - EPA)

cfs cubic foot per second

CMARP Comprehensive Monitoring, Assessment, and Research Plan

COD chemical oxygen demand

Corps U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

CUWA California Urban Water Agencies

CVP Central Valley Project

CVPIA Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Reclamation)

CVRWQCB Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board No. 5

CWA Clean Water Act (federal)



DBPs

disinfection by-products

DDT

dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane [also DDE;dichloro diphenyl

dichloroethylene, and DDD; 1,1-dichloro-2,2bis(p-chlorophenyl)ethane]

DFG

California Department of Fish and Game

DHS

California Department of Health Services

**DMC** 

Delta-Mendota Canal (CVP aqueduct)

DPR

California Department of Pesticide Regulation

DWR

California Department of Water Resources

DWRDSM

California Department of Water Resources Delta Simulation Model

EC

electrical conductivity (also known as "specific conductance")

**EPA** 

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**EQIP** 

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (USDA)

**ESA** 

Endangered Species Act (Federal)

**FDA** 

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

**GAC** 

granular-activated carbon

**GIS** 

Geographic Information System

**IEP** 

Interagency Ecological Program

**ISDP** 

Interim South Delta Program (DWR)

ISDP DEIR/EIS

ISDP Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

(DWR)

Kg

kilogram

**LBNL** 

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories

**MAA** 

management agency agreement (between DPR and SWRCB)



 $\mu$ g/g micrograms per gram

mg/kg milligrams per kilogram

 $\mu$ g/l micrograms per liter

 $\mu$ m micrometer

MIB methylisoborneol (taste- and odor-causing compound)

MP management practices (a non-regulatory form of BMPs)

MCL maximum contaminant level

MOU memorandum of understanding

MTBE methyl tert-butyl ether (fuel oxygenate causing water quality contamination)

MWD Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

MWQI Municipal Water Quality Investigation (a DWR program)

NAWQA National Water Quality Assessment (a USGS program)

NAS/NAE National Academy of Science/National Academy of Engineers

NBA North Bay Aqueduct (SWP aqueduct)

ng nanogram

ng/g nanograms per gram

NPDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (federal Clean Water Act)

NPL National Priorities List (EPA)

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

OC organochlorine (pesticides made of chlorinated organic compounds, such as

DDT)

OEHHA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (Cal EPA)

PAM polyacrylamide



PAT Parameter Assessment Team

PCA pest control advisor

PCBs polychlorinated biphenyls

PEIS/EIR Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact

Report (CALFED)

pH acidity of water, log scale of 1 to 14, the lower number being the stronger

acid.

ppb parts per billion

ppm parts per million

PLAN West Stanislaus Sediment Reduction Plan

Program CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Rainbow Report "A Management Plan for Agricultural Subsurface Drainage and Related

Problems on the Westside San Joaquin Valley" (SJVDP)

RCD Resource Conservation District

Reclamation U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

RMP Regional Monitoring Program (San Francisco Estuary Institute)

ROD Record of Decision

RWQCB Regional Water Quality Control Board (there are nine, responsible to the

SWRCB)

RWCF Stockton Regional Wastewater Control Facility

SAR sodium adsorption ratio

SBA South Bay Aqueduct (SWP aqueduct)

SCVWD Santa Clara Valley Water District

SCWA Solano County Water Agency

Se/g

selenium per gram

SFBRWQCB

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board No. 2

SJRMP-WQS

San Joaquin River Management Program, Water Quality Subcommittee

**SJVDP** 

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program

**SJVDIP** 

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Implementation Program (successor to

SJVDP)

SSAC

Sanitary Survey Action Committee (SWP contractors)

Superfund

See CERCLA

**SWRCB** 

State Water Resources Control Board

**SWTR** 

Surface Water Treatment Rule

SWP

State Water Project

T&O

taste and odor (an objectionable characteristic of drinking water)

**TDS** 

total dissolved solids

TIE

toxicity identification evaluation

**TMDL** 

total maximum daily load

TOC

total organic carbon

**TSMP** 

Toxic Substances Monitoring Program (an SWRCB/DFG program)

**TTHMs** 

total trihalomethanes

UC

University of California

**UCIPM** 

University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Project

**UPC** 

Urban Pesticide Committee

**USDA** 

U.S. Department of Agriculture

**USFS** 

U.S. Forest Service



USFWS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**USGS** 

U.S. Geological Survey

WDR

Waste Discharge Requirement

**WQCP** 

Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

(SWRCB)

**WQPP** 

Water Quality Program Plan (CALFED)

**WQTG** 

Water Quality Technical Group (agency and stakeholder advisors to the

CALFED Water Quality Program)

WWD

Westlands Water District

